

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06723 061939Z  
ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00  
IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 COME-00  
EB-08 LAB-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /133 W  
-----021619 070715Z /21

R 061926Z APR 78  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5894  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, ILO, PINT  
SUBJ: COMMUNIST LABOR INITIATIVES: A JOINT WORLD  
SECRETARIAT

REF: BRUSSELS 6387

1. THE COMMUNIST WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU)  
IS PRESSING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT SECRETARIAT  
WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE  
UNIONS (ICFTU) AND THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL)  
AT THE ILO IN GENEVA, ACCORDING TO JOHN VANDERVEKEN,  
ICFTU ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY. VANDERVEKEN TOLD  
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06723 061939Z

THE MISSION LABATT APRIL 5 THAT THIS MOVE, OPPOSED BY THE  
ICFTU, HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE WCL.

2. THE WFTU, SAID VANDERVEKEN, IS WILLING TO CONCEDE TO  
THE ICFTU THE JOB OF SECRETARY OF THE WORKERS' GROUP OF  
THE ILO GOVERNING BODY, A POST TRADITIONALLY OCCUPIED BY  
THE ICFTU REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA. IN THE NEXT

WORKERS' GROUP ELECTION FOR THE POST IN JUNE, HOWEVER, THE WFTU AND WCL ARE PLANNING TO PROPOSE THE CREATION OF TWO "ASSISTANT SECRETARY" POSITIONS, ONE FROM THE WFTU AND THE OTHER FROM THE WCL.

3. EXPECTATIONS HERE ARE THAT THE USSR WORKER DELEGATE, PETR PIMINOV, COULD ARGUE THAT SINCE THE ICFTU IS CHANGING GENEVA REPRESENTATIVES AFTER THE ILO CONFERENCE THIS SUMMER, THE NEW MAN COULD IN HIS ILO WORKER SECRETARY ROLE USE SOME "HELP" FROM GILLES FRENETTE, WCL REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA, AND FROM A WFTU STAFFER.

4. COMMENT: A JOINT SECRETARIAT AT THE ILO WOULD BE USEFUL, FROM THE WFTU VIEWPOINT, IN PROMOTING EAST-WEST LABOR CONFERENCES, WHICH HERETOFORE HAVE BEEN MORE OR LESS UNDER THE ILO UMBRELLA. ACCORDING TO VANDERVEKEN, THE WFTU IS SO ANXIOUS FOR EAST-WEST MEETINGS THAT IT REPORTEDLY IS EVEN WILLING TO HAVE ONE ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION INVESTMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE. A WCL-WFTU PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING WITH SUCH AN AGENDA WAS MADE IN PASSING TO THE ICFTU SECRETARIAT--AND REJECTED BY IT--IN THE MEETING HELD MARCH 22 WITH THE WCL SECRETARIAT (REFTEL), SAID VANDERVEKEN. MORRIS

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** LABOR, COMMUNISTS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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